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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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The Honorable Rodney Slater
United States Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

OST 00-7181-28

The recent signing of the **Wendell H.** Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (the "Ford Act") has great potential to increase competition and provide more travel choices **for** the residents of Colorado. Under Section **41718** (a), the Department can award up to twelve exemption slots to **allow** limited frequencies on routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic hubs beyond the **1,250** mile perimeter rule. We urge you to approve the petition submitted by Denver-based Frontier Airlines for four slots to **allow** nonstop service to Denver International Airport, which is located outside of the perimeter rule. An award of the slots requested to Frontier would benefit the Denver community, Colorado, **communities** throughout the west and the future of airline competition.

Frontier is entering its sixth year of operations, as well as its second consecutive year of profitability. The airline currently provides air service to **20** major metropolitan cities from its Denver hub, and **16** of those are among the top origin and destination markets as measured by the Department. Direct service to National Airport would add a significant component to Frontier's scope, as **well** as provide convenient, one-stop service to cities **served** by Frontier beyond Denver.

The "Ford Act" calls for "increased competition by new entrant carriers or in multiple markets" and we believe Frontier's presence **offers** a strong track record in promoting air competition in Denver and throughout the country. The slots awarded by the Department to Frontier Airlines at New York's **LaGuardia** Airport in **1997** are a good example of how opening markets and promoting air competition is beneficial for multiple **communities**. Since the inception of Frontier's Denver - **LaGuardia** service, the number of passengers **traveling** on this route has increased more than **88** percent, while the average **fare** on that same route has decreased more than **22** percent. These statistics aside, the **mere fact that the** citizens and businesses of Denver-(and **communities** connecting in Denver) **and New York have** additional travel options should be counted as a success for all communities, as well as for the Department.

We hope you will **demonstrate** your continued support **for** the future **of deregulation** by awarding two non-stop daily flights (four **slots**) **from National** Airport **to** Frontier Airlines. As **proponents of open** markets and airline competition, we thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best Regards,

